

Commission on Ministry
Report to the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey
May 8th 2021

Commission on Ministry held its first meeting on **May 6th, 2021**

At that meeting it took the following **actions acting as a commission** of the presbytery:

Approved:

1)The Temporary Pastor Covenant between **Grace Presbyterian Church, Montclair** and the **Rev. Robin Currás** (Highlands Presbytery), appointed her moderator of the session and granted permission to Labor within our Bounds, enrolling her as a corresponding member of the presbytery for the length of her service. Terms of Call as follows:

Cash Salary \$55,000
Housing Allowance \$40,000
SECA Offset \$5,000
Professional Expenses up to \$1450.00 by accountable reimbursement
Continuing Education up to \$1200.00 by accountable reimbursement
Board of Pensions \$37,000

2) **The MIF** of the Ramsey Church who wish to mount a national search for their interim pastor.

3) A request to commission Ruling Elder **H. David Rogers** of **Westfield** to preside at the wedding of his Nephew which is to take place in Minnesota, at a wedding venue. This is permissible both by Minnesota law and by our book of order.

4) A change in the nature of the relationship between the **Rev. Touré Marshall** and the **Roseville Church**. It will now be a Designated Pastorate with a 5 year renewable term. The Commission found the terms of call in order as follows:

Cash Salary \$74,354
Manse Value \$18,000
SECA Offset \$5,500
Total Effective Salary \$97,854
Board of Pensions Minister's Choice Plan \$12,721

Appointed the Following Moderators of Sessions

Ramsey — Rev. Berj Gulleyan
Westminster Paterson — Rev. Ben Fraumann
St. Paul's Newark — Rev. Greg Horn
Watchung, Bloomfield — Rev. Greg Horn
Osceola Clark — Rev. David Jahnke if the way be clear

Validated the ministry of Daniel Valez-Acevedo at the request of the session of First Presbyterian Church Cranford. Daniel is a Candidate for Ordination who has been Certified Ready to Receive a Call. The Presbytery will have the opportunity to examine him for ordination at an upcoming meeting.

Other items for information:

The Commission engaged in a lengthy discussion of background checks, and requests the vision team to form a task group to make recommendations for both the presbytery's policy for teaching elders and presbytery employees as well as a list of best practices and options for churches as they make their own policies. We hope that people with backgrounds in insurance underwriting, public safety and other relevant fields might volunteer for such a task group.

The Commission found in order documentation received from the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of Nigeria attesting to the good standing and qualifications of the Rev. Dr. Obaji Mbeh Agbiji. In light of this documentation Rev. Dr. Agbiji will be examined for transfer of membership into the presbytery at the next COM meeting.